

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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P 081110Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8036

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC GB

SUBJECT: GRAND POUBARA: CHARLES T. MAIN INTERNATIONAL (CTMI)

REF: STATE 155383

1. AMBASSADOR AND ECONOFF CALLED ON SEEG DIRECTOR GENERAL DIVUNGUI TO DISCUSS TIMING OF PROPOSED VISIT OF GERARD BLANC OF CTMI.

2. DIVUNGUI CONFIRMED THAT EDF PRELIMINARY REPORT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, BUT ADDED FURTHER INFORMATION THAT HE HAS RETURNED IT TO EDF FOR PRINTING AND ALSO FOR ENGLISH TRANSLATION. HE HOPES TO HAVE COPIES HERE BY END OF JULY, BUT HAS NO FIRM ASSURANCE YET ON DELIVERY DATE.

3. IN ADDITION TO FURTHER DELAY IN RECEIVING REPORT, DIVUNGUI SAID, HE WILL NEED TO OBTAIN GOG AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURE FOR NEXT STEPS. HE WILL START BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS AS SOON AS PRESIDENT RETURNS (MID-JULY) AND HOPES HAVE DECISION BY EARLY AUGUST. AGAIN, HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT TIMING NOT WITHIN HIS CONTROL SO THERE MAY BE SOME SLIPPAGE.

4. IN VIEW THESE UNCERTAINTIES, DIVUNGUI FELT JULY 26 DATE PROPOSED BY BLANC WOULD BE SOMEWHAT PREMATURE AND SUGGESTED THAT VISIT BE POSTPONED UNTIL WEEK OF AUGUST 9 (I.E., FOLLOWING AUGUST 6-8 VISIT OF FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND PRECEDING AUGUST 17 INDEPENDENCE CELEB-
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RATIONS). EVEN THOUGH DIVUNGUI MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE

DEFINITE ANSWERS TO ALL CTMI QUESTIONS AT THAT TIME, HE FEELS PROCESS WILL BE WELL ENOUGH ALONG TO MAKE VISIT WORTHWHILE AND HE WOULD LIKE MEET PERSONALLY WITH BLANC BEFORE HE (DIVUNGUI) GOES ON VACATION AUGUST 20 TO SEPTEMBER 30.

5. DIVUNGUI PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY IF SLIPPAGE MENTIONED PARA 3 SHOULD BE SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF BLANC VISIT. AS FAR AS EMBASSY CAN DETERMINE, ALL OFFICIALS WHOM BLANC WISHES TO SEE WILL BE IN LIBREVILLE BECAUSE OF EVENTS CITED IN PARA 4.

6. EVALUATION OF LIGER WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTEMBER.

7. PLEASE ADVISE CTMI PLANS. STEIGMAN

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